



STUDY 5 - WEDNESDAY

JOHN 12:1-11

There is some cross over in this study with Chris' first talk. No pressure at all, but it may be that you wish (by way of background), to look again at the first talk in the series before you meet for this study. (Even the first 15 minutes would be helpful.) [Click here to see the first talk again.](#)

Read John 12:1-11

Watch the video

*John 12:1 tells us that 6 days before the Passover, Jesus came to Bethany. However, Chris made the point in the first study, that John does not record things according to strict time lines. His concern is **theological**, not **chronological**. So, Chris argues that the dinner which John starts to describe in v2, is actually on the **Wednesday** night.*

1. Two priorities guided the way John puts his material together here in John 11 and 12. What two aspects of Jesus' identity does John want us to know?
2. Who were the three groups of people (all religious people of the day), who wanted Jesus dead and what was distinctive about the three groups?

John then uses these three key factors to frame the account of Mary washing Jesus' feet. He's the King. He has power over death. And there is a plot to kill him. That is the setting for Mary's act of love. Jesus is in Bethany even though there were threats against him. The disciples sense danger, the crowds sense danger, but Jesus doesn't run away from danger. He goes willingly to Jerusalem, knowing he is going to die.

3. As the many people came into Jerusalem for Passover, what would have been on their mind?
4. Read John 11:49-50 – what was the irony in the words of Caiaphas?
5. We'd love to know what Lazarus had to say about his experience at the dinner party, but that is not John's focus. What Mary did, is. What is the significance of Mary anointing Jesus' feet?
6. Why did Judas object?
7. Isn't caring for the poor what we should be doing? Doesn't Judas have a point?
8. Mary valued Jesus at year's wages. Judas? The price of a cow. Why *did* Judas betray Jesus?
9. A generous and community minded neighbour or friend has a friendly go at you, saying that you go on about Jesus and are 'up at the church all the time', while they are getting on with real Christianity which is helping those in need. How do you respond?
10. How can we adequately respond to what Jesus has done for us? See Romans 12:1-2.

*What new things did you learn in this study? **Reflection:** How does our devotion to Jesus measure up against that of Mary here? She put great value on Jesus, made an enormous sacrifice, subjected herself to humiliation and ridicule. But Jesus, said Chris, was worth this sacrifice. Why?*